58TH CONGRESS, 2d Session. | SENATE. | DOCUMENT No. 312.

This nation has assumed before the world a grave responsibility for the future good government of Cuba. We have accepted a trust the fulfillment of which calls for the earnest integrity of purpose and the exercise of the highest wisdom. The new Cuba yet to arise from the ashes of the past must needs be bound to us by ties of singular intimacy and strength if its enduring welfare is to be assured. Whether those ties shall be organic or conventional, the destinies of Cuba are in some rightful form and manner irrevocably linked with our own, but how and how far is for the future to determine in the ripeness of events.—M'KINLEY.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FREE GOVERNMENT IN CUBA.

COMPILED

IN THE

U.S. BUREAU OF INSULAR AFFAIRS

FROM THE

RECORDS OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

APRIL 27, 1904.—Presented by Mr. Platt, of Connecticut, and ordered to be printed.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1904.

DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE CUBAN REPUBLIC, ETC.

THE INTERVENTION BY THE UNITED STATES.

On April 20, 1898, the Congress of the United States adopted the following joint resolution (30 Stat. L., 738):

Whereas the abhorrent conditions which have existed for more than three years in the island of Cuba, so near our own borders, have shocked the moral sense of the people of the United States, have been a disgrace to Christian civilization, culminating, as they have, in the destruction of a United States battle ship with two hundred and sixty-six of its officers and crew, while on a friendly visit in the harbor of Habana, and can not longer be endured, as has been set forth by the President of the United States in his message to Congress of April eleventh, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, upon which the action of Congress was invited: Therefore,

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, First. That the people of the island of Cuba are and of right ought to be, free and independent.

Second. That it is the duty of the United States to demand, and the Government of the United States does hereby demand, that the Government of Spain at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters.

Third. That the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several States, to such extent as may be necessary to carry these resolutions into effect.

Fourth. That the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction, or control over said island except for the pacification thereof, and asserts its determination, when that is accomplished, to leave the government and control of the island to its people.

On April 25, 1898, the Congress of the United States passed an act, approved on the same date, entitled "An act declaring that war exists between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain," as follows (30 Stat. L., 364):

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, First. That war be, and the same is hereby, declared to exist, and that war has existed since the twenty-first day of April, anno Domini eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, including said day, between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain.

Second. That the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several States, to such extent as may be necessary to carry this act into effect.

On August 12, 1898, three months and seventeen days after Congress had declared the war existing, a protocol was entered into between the United States and Spain, providing as follows (30 Stat. L., 1742):

PROTOCOL.

William R. Day, Secretary of State of the United States, and His Excellency Jules Cambon, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of France

Joint Resolution

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Fourth. That the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction, or control over said island except for the pacification thereof, and asserts its determination, when that is accomplished, to leave the government and control of the island to its people.

Resolución conjunta

El 20 de abril de 1898, el Congreso de los Estados Unidos aprobó la siguiente resolución conjunta.

Por cuanto el aborrecible estado de cosas que ha existido, durante los tres últimos años, en la isla de Cuba, tan próxima a nuestro territorio, ha requerido el sentido moral del pueblo de los Estados Unidos y afrentado la civilización cristiana, y ha culminado en la destrucción de un barco de guerra de los Estados Unidos con doscientos sesenta y seis de sus oficiales y tripulantes, mientras se hallaba de visita amistosa en el puerto de La Habana, y tal estado de cosas no puede ser tolerado por más tiempo, según manifestó ya el Presidente de los Estados Unidos en su mensaje al Congreso de 11 de abril de 1898, invitando a éste que adopte resoluciones.

Por tanto, se resuelve por el Senado y la Cámara de Representantes de los Estados Unidos de América, reunidos en Congreso:

Primero. Que el pueblo de la isla de Cuba es y de derecho debe de ser libre e indepediente.

Segundo. Que es el deber de los Estados Unidos exigir, como el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos por la presente exige, que el Gobierno de España renuncie inmediatamente su autoridad y gobierno en la isla de Cuba y retire del territorio de ésta y de sus aguas, sus fuezas militares y navales.

Tercero. Que por la presente se da orden y autoridad al Presidente de los Estados Unidos para usar en su totalidad las fuerzas militares y navales de los Estados Unidos, y para llamar a servicio activo la milicia de los diferentes Estados de los Estados Unidos hasta donde sea necesario para llevar a efecto esta resolución.

Cuarto. Que los Estados Unidos por la presente declaran que no tienen deseo ni intención de ejercer soberanía, jurisdicción o dominio sobre dicha Isla, excepto para su pacificación, y afirma su determinación, cuando ésta se haya conseguido, de dejar el gobierno y dominio de la Isla a su pueblo.